



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

MOORAK PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

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19/5/2017

'Learning & Growing Together'

Issue 8

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 30th May

Dion Drummond

Monday 12th June

Queens Birthday

Tuesday 20th June

Pupil Free Day

Friday 23rd June

Pyjama Day

Attendance

The Department for Education & Child Development says: 'Regular attendance and participation in schooling is an important factor in educational life and success. Students who are regular non-attenders are at risk of alienation from education that can lead to decreased options for future pathways.'



It is a requirement that the school is contacted if your child is absent. This can be a Dojo message, phone call, a note written in the diary or a chat with your child's teacher. If an explanation is not given within a reasonable time, generally 2 days you will be contacted by your child's teacher. Please be aware that student absences due to illness that are in excess of 3 days also require a doctor's certificate to be presented upon their return. It is easier to obtain these on your initial doctor's visit, plus it provides an indication of expected absence.

Please provide your child's teacher with written information about absences where possible and carefully consider the impact of absence on long term learning, particularly when considering family outings or holidays.

Did you know??

If a child misses 4 days of schooling each term then they will have missed the equivalent of 1 whole year of schooling by the end of Year 12. If a child misses 1 day of schooling a week then they will have missed the equivalent of 2 ½ years of schooling by the end of Year 12.

Your continued co-operation in this matter would be much appreciated.

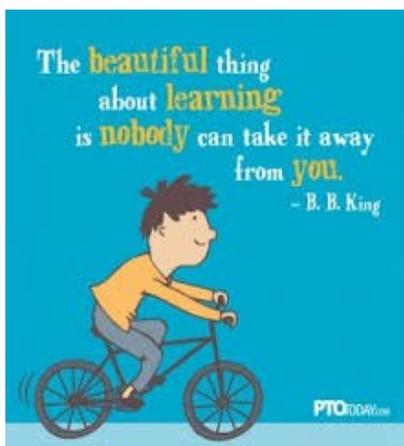
NAPLAN

Well done to all our students who completed their NAPLAN tests last week. They showed lots of resilience and performed at their best.



Cross Country

The South East Cross Country Championship took place today in Naracoorte. Congratulations to all students who participated and tried their best.



What's the big deal about video games?

How do we know what our children are viewing and doing when they go online to play? Gaming and talking online are becoming common place with our students. As parents, how do we keep them safe when playing and talking online via PlayStation and Xbox? What do we need to know about the games they are playing and are they appropriate for their age?

Firstly, let's look at game ratings.

These ratings mean there are no legal restrictions about viewing or playing these games.

	G- General
	PG - Parental Guidance
	M - Mature

The following classification categories are restricted categories. This means there are legal restrictions on viewing and/or playing these films and computer games.

	MA 15+ -- Mature Accompanied
	R 18+ - Restricted

These categories are for 18 years plus and would require an adult to purchase the game. The contents include sexual references and violence.

	X 18+ - Restricted
	RC - Refused Classification

Tips for parents:

Monitoring the games your children are playing - watch or join in and play the games to build a better understanding of the games content and objectives.

No screen time at least an hour before bed - this reduces the stimuli to the brain and allows children to relax and calm down ready for sleep.

Look at the ratings for their games - if in doubt look at the cover, read the blurb, go online and read reviews or talk to the sales assistant.

Adventure games and games that have missions built into the content can help to develop a good working memory, patterning recognition, developing logic and reasoning skills and problem solving skills. These are some benefits researchers have found when used moderately.

Excessive use limits creativity and imagination.

Be aware of how players are rewarded in the game. Some games reward players for being violent and this is increased for repeating the violent act. This can send the wrong messages for our students.

Making sure your children know who they are talking to online while playing. Are they friends they see at school or strangers they have met online? More importantly what information are they disclosing to their online friends? What precautions are in place to keep them safe?

Please be mindful of what games your children are playing and how this can impact on their behaviour choices.

YEAR 3/4/5

The students in 3/4/5 have been researching early pioneers in Mount Gambier. Yesterday we went to the library and Main Corner as part History month. We watched a really interesting presentation on the history of Mount Gambier, had a look in the history room and interacted with displays in the main corner. It was a very informative and enjoyable morning.



Respect, Individuality, Growth, Community.

DEHYDRATED FRUIT

Last year most people enjoyed having dehydrated fruit at the canteen as a healthy alternative. I was wondering if students would like to have this as a option once again . This will be homemade using fruit from multiple local producers.

Here is a list of available fruits we may be offering:

- ◆ Apple (plain, cinnamon, or coco coated)
- ◆ Pineapple
- ◆ Strawberry
- ◆ Pear
- ◆ Orange
- ◆ Mixed bag



~ Ruby Slotegraaf ~



Please tick the types of dehydrated fruit you would be interested in having at the canteen, and return this slip to the front office by Thursday 25th May.

- Apple
- Pineapple
- Strawberry
- Pear
- Orange
- Mixed bag